

Message Text

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43

ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-03 SS-20

USIA-15 DRC-01 /101 W

----- 119045

R 101500Z MAY 74

FM AMEMBASSY SOFIA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7994

INFO AMEMBASSY BELGRADE

AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST

AMEMBASSY BUDAPEST

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMCONSUL MUNICH

AMEMBASSY PRAGUE

AMEMBASSY WARSAW

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, BU, GW

SUBJECT: BULGARIAN PRESS REACTION TO BRANDT RESIGNATION

1. BULGARIAN PRESS TO DATE HAS BEEN EXTREMELY CIRCUMSPECT IN ITS TREATMENT OF BRANDT RESIGNATION AND TO OUR KNOWLEDGE HAS YET TO CARRY ANY COMMENTARY ON AFFAIR.

2. INITIAL ANNOUNCEMENT REFERRED TO "GUILLAUME AFFAIR INVOLVING ALLEGATIONS OF AN ESPIONAGE CHARACTER" BUT DID NOT IDENTIFY OR ELABORATE ON THIS ASPECT OF SITUATION. RABOTNICHESKO DELO MAY 10, HAVING ALL BUT IGNORED THE STORY ON ITS PREVIOUS ISSUE, CARRIES LONG PIECE BY ITS BONN CORRESPONDENT WHICH FOCUSES ON EFFORTS TO FORM NEW GOVERNMENT. ALLEDGING CONFUSION IN SPD AND CDU RANKS, ARTICLE PROVIDES SOME BIO INFORMATION ON HELMUT SCHMIDT AND CONCLUDES BY STATING "THERE IS EVERY REASON

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TO BELIEVE FUTURE GOVERNMENT WILL CONTINUE THE REALISTIC

FOREIGN POLICY LINE OF THE SMALL COALITION FOR DEVELOPING RELATIONS WITH SOCIALIST COUNTRIES".

3. COMMENT: THE FEW GOB OFFICIALS WITH WHOM EMBOFFS HAVE TALKED HAVE EXPRESSED SURPRISE AT BRANDT RESIGNATION AND PROFESS TO BE IN DARK AT MOTIVES BEHIND ACTION. GIVEN SCANT PRESS COVERAGE THIS IS NOT UNEXPECTED. GOB IS UNDOUBTEDLY HAPPY THAT IT WAS SCHEEL WHOM THEY WINED AND DINED FOLLOWING THE ESTABLISHMENT OF DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS. THE BULGARS HAVE BEEN LAST IN OSTPOLITIK AND PERHAPS CURRENTLY GLAD THEY WERE NOT DEEPLY INVOLVED. BULGARIAN BILATERAL INTEREST WITH FRG REMAINS ECONOMIC (FRG IS LARGEST WESTERN TRADE PARTNER) AND THERE APPEARS TO BE SUFFICIENT CONFIDENCE THAT THESE INTERESTS WILL REMAIN UNAFFECTED BY CHANGE IN BONN GOVERNMENT.
HERZ

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Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
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